

A RECENTLY DISCOVERED GENUS AND SPECIES OF  
AQUATIC HYMENOPTERA.

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In the *Annales Soc. Ent. de France*, LXIX., p. 171, P. Marchal publishes an article entitled "Sur un nouvel Hyménoptère aquatique, le *Limnodytes gerriphagus*, n. gen., n. sp."

Mr. Marchal is to be complimented on his discovery and observation of the habits of this very interesting insect, but it is deeply to be regretted that the generic name which he has chosen is preoccupied, hence it becomes necessary to change it, and desirable to do so at once, before it becomes widely known. The name *Limnodytes* was employed by Dumeril and Bibron in their "Erpétologie générale," Vol. VIII., 1841, p. 510, for a genus of salamanders, hence I propose in its place the term TIPHODYTES, nov. name.

In this connection I may apropos make a few remarks, gathered from Marchal's paper, concerning the habits and relations of this insect.

Metchnikoff, and after him Ganin, mentioned finding an unknown species of *Teleas* as a parasite on the eggs of *Gerris* (Hemiptera-Heteroptera). Marchal found the present species during the month of May, in the pond of Trivaux, Meudon, near Paris, also parasitizing the eggs of *Gerris*, but he considers it distinct, although closely related to the one found by Metchnikoff and Ganin. On the 12th of May he collected eggs which were animated with the larvæ of the parasite. These eggs were always arranged along the lower surface of Potamogeton leaves. The larvæ differed from those figured by Ganin in the arrangement of the hair and brevity of the caudal cornus. In June, four female and two male adults hatched, and these used their wings for swimming in any direction through the water, with a leisurely movement. When they came to the surface they had to make an effort to pass through it into the air, where they readily took flight. Likewise, in entering the water the insect bent its head forward and made a visible effort to conquer the resistance offered by the surface film, unless it entered on the edge of a projecting leaf or twig.

My excuse for entering at length here into an abstract and discussion of Marchal's article is because aquatic examples of the Hymenoptera are very few, and the fact that winged adults of such an order should enter and swim in the water must interest many entomologists who will never see the original article.

Amongst those already known may be mentioned *Agriotypus armatus*, Walker, which is confined (as are the others) to the European fauna, and has been observed swimming beneath the water, being parasitic on the larvæ of various Trichoptera. It forms a family of its own, probably related most closely to the Ichneumonidæ. *Polynema natans* belongs to the Mymarinae (Proctotrypidæ), and resembles in method of swimming Marchal's species, but its wings are somewhat abortive, and it is thought that it cannot fly well. It is parasitic on the eggs of *Calopteryx*. Lastly, *Prestivichia aquatica*, said to be a Chalcid, is parasitic on the eggs of Notonectus and Dytiscus, as observed by Lubbock and Enoch, and swims with its legs instead of its wings.

Marchal places his genus within the Proctotrypidæ, subfamily Scelioninae, close to the genus *Thoron*. For its characters I must refer the reader to the original memoir.

So far as I know, aquatic Hymenoptera are as yet unknown to the American fauna. But there should be—at least, it is quite likely that there may be—some species which has adopted an aquatic life here as well as in Europe. Who will be the first to find one?

#### TWO NEW SILPHIDÆ FROM COLORADO.

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*Silpha Coloradensis*, n. sp.—Form of *inequalis*, but more elongate, black, except the tip of the abdomen, which is orange-rufous; above clothed with short black hairs. Head densely punctate, the punctures regular over the greater part of the surface, those in front of the inter-antennal line smaller and less distinct; occipital transverse impression deep; labrum short, broadly emarginate; antennæ black, club four-jointed, the last three joints pubescent, the terminal one longer, compressed, tip sinuately rounded. Thorax about one and one-half times as broad as long, narrowed anteriorly, sides broadly arcuate in front, more suddenly so behind, basal lobe slightly and very broadly emarginate. Surface somewhat irregular, densely and very regularly punctate, sides somewhat flattened. Scutellum slightly concave, densely punctured. Elytra as wide as the thorax and fully twice as long, the sides nearly parallel, outer margins distinctly reflexed, apices conjointly rounded, but sinuate externally, punctuation less dense than that of the thorax, each puncture with a recumbent hair. Disk flat, more suddenly declivous at sides than in *inequalis*, each elytron with three costæ, the outer of which is much the best marked, being high, acute, not terminating opposite the